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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Report of proceedings had at the Redistricting
Committee for the Illinois House of Representatives held
in person at Aurora City Hall, 44 East Downer, Aurora,
Illinois, on the 9th day of April, A.D., 2021,
commencing at the hour of 4:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN:

Representative Curtis Tarver

ALSO PRESENT:

Representative Tim Butler

Representative Jim Durkin

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1 CHAIRMAN TARVER: We are going to go ahead and
2 get started. The hour of four o'clock having come and
3 gone, the Redistricting Committee shall come to order.
4 First and foremost, I want to say thank you and then
5 also introduce someone who you all know, the Mayor of
6 Aurora, Richard Irvin, for some brief remarks to welcome
7 us. So please, take it away.

8 MAYOR IRVIN: Thank you very much for allowing
9 me to speak with you for a few minutes about the
10 Illinois House Redistricting. This is a very important
11 process, part of our electoral process to ensure that we
12 have equity across the board in our communities in the
13 State of Illinois and in the City of Aurora. So I want
14 to welcome you today to the City of Aurora and welcome
15 that you are taking part in the process of making sure
16 that all of our elections and everything throughout the
17 State of Illinois and the City of Aurora are fair and
18 equal across the board.

19 So, again, thank you very much for being here
20 today. Thank you very much, Chairman, for doing this
21 here in the City of Aurora, and I look forward to some
22 progress here at this meeting. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, again. And now I
24 am going to read a not-so-brief statement into the

1 record.

2 Again, the House Committee on Redistricting
3 has come to order. My name is Curtis Tarver and I am
4 the State Representative of the 25th District. I am a
5 member of the Redistricting Committee and will be
6 chairing today's meeting. I would like to welcome
7 several representatives who are joining us today. First
8 and foremost, local representatives Barbara Hernandez,
9 Representative Kifowit and I believe I saw
10 Representative Hirschauer here as well, sitting right in
11 front of me.

12 Also, we have Leader Durkin. We have, I
13 believe I saw, Brady here as well and Spokesperson
14 Abudayyeh. So thank you all for being here, too.

15 I would like to thank everyone else who has
16 chosen to participate in today's hearing. Your insight
17 and participation is as important as ever as we begin
18 the redistricting process under unprecedented
19 circumstances. The United States and Illinois
20 Constitutions require that the General Assembly redraw
21 political boundaries every ten years to account for
22 population shifts. These hearings are part of that
23 process. House democrats are dedicated to transparency
24 and public participation in this process.

1 While state law requires a minimum of four
2 public hearings throughout the state, our committee
3 intends to hold far more than that and present
4 additional opportunities for public participation. Our
5 goal is to hear from as many people as possible and to
6 gain as much information as possible about the diverse
7 communities of our state.

8 Our staff has been making hundreds of phone
9 calls to encourage participation in these upcoming
10 hearings. Those who wish to participate should be given
11 an opportunity to do so, period. We are holding a
12 series of virtual and obviously in-person hearings
13 throughout the state.

14 Early last month we announced the schedule of
15 23 hearings before proposing a redistricting plan. For
16 a comparison, in 2011, the House Redistricting Committee
17 held 17 hearings in total. While we are guided in this
18 endeavor by the United States Constitution, the Federal
19 Voting Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution and the
20 Illinois Voting Rights Act, we are also interested in
21 any relevant demographic information such as social,
22 political, economic, and religious. Or any other
23 characteristics that are unique to your community.

24 We want to hear your specific views on any

1 social, political, economic or religious interests
2 commonly held in the community. Any specific interest
3 groups that exist, any concerns you have regarding the
4 current boundaries or alternatively what works well
5 about the current boundaries, and suggestions for
6 drawing of new boundaries. In short, although it has
7 been long, we want to hear your testimony that is
8 relevant to the drawing of our new political boundaries.

9 This year for the first time Illinois
10 residents will be able to participate in the process of
11 the comfort of their own homes, including through remote
12 participation in these hearings, and also by drawing
13 their own map via a website. The public drawing board
14 portal is available at ilhousedems.com/redistricting.

15 It allows any Illinois resident to draw
16 districts and share those maps with the committee for
17 consideration. The public may also submit written or
18 other public comment to the committee by email at
19 redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov. All written
20 testimony, public comments, and maps submitted to the
21 committee will be made publicly available at ilga.gov
22 and ilhousedems.gov/redistricting.

23 Transcripts -- thank you, Madam Court
24 Reporter, Sharon -- of today's committee hearing will

1 also be uploaded to those sites. As of today, we will
2 begin with a short slide show presentation. Following
3 that brief presentation, we have a number of witnesses
4 who indicated the desire to testify. If you have
5 written testimony prepared, we ask that you submit that
6 testimony to us and just briefly summarize it in your
7 oral presentation.

8 And let me just make a quick announcement. We
9 have four panels of individuals who desire to testify
10 and signed up in advance. There have been additional
11 people who have noted on their way in that they want to
12 testify as well. They will essentially comprise our
13 fifth panel.

14 So if you just signed up to testify, just know
15 you will have an opportunity, but it will be after the
16 original four panels that we have scheduled. And with
17 that I would like to recognize Minority Spokesperson
18 Butler and/or Leader Durkin for comment.

19 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Chairman Tarver. I
20 think Leader Durkin is going to have a few words after I
21 say something. So it's just a pleasure to be here. My
22 name is Tim Butler, T-I-M, B-U-T-L-E-R, for the court
23 reporter. I am a State Representative from the 87th
24 District. I live in Springfield. I cover four counties

1 right smack dab in the middle of the state, but it is
2 nice to be back in this part of the state.

3 My sister lives not too far away over in
4 Naperville, and I had a chance to be in your community
5 often, but it has been a little while. So glad to be
6 back here in Aurora, to hear what folks have to say.
7 And it is nice to be at an in-person hearing as well. I
8 have spent a lot of my last week-and-a-half staring at
9 my computer screen, like a lot of people this week had.

10 I think this is the 17th hearing that I have
11 attended so far, most of them virtual, so it is nice to
12 be in-person and glad to be joined by so many of our
13 colleagues here today on both sides of the aisle.
14 Representative Hirschauer, Representative Kifowit,
15 Representative Hernandez, in her district here, and
16 also, Dan Brady and House Republican Leader Jim Durkin.
17 So look forward to a good hearing.

18 As Chairman Tarver said, the redistricting
19 process is vitally important. The lines that are drawn,
20 often times politically, determine who your
21 representatives are in the state capital, in Washington,
22 and locally as well, for county board and city council
23 and things like that.

24 And so redistricting is a vital process that

1 only happens once every ten years. So glad that you are
2 out here on a Friday evening to come talk about it and
3 look forward to what folks have to say.

4 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Leader Durkin.

5 MR. DURKIN: Good afternoon. Thank you
6 Mr. Chairman. My name is Jim Durkin. I am the State
7 Representative from the 82nd District and that is in
8 Western Springs, Cook County, and I have been trying to
9 make -- be in attendance at a few of these. I have
10 watched some other ones on my computer, and this is
11 going to be the most important decision that the
12 legislature takes over the next ten years.

13 What is at stake is so much, and we have seen
14 that over and over, over decades. Traditionally, and
15 the way it is currently working right now, is that we
16 reply upon a system that states to the victor go the
17 spoils. And the spoils are drawing the legislative
18 maps. That means that whoever runs the chamber
19 virtually has unfettered discretion or ability to draw
20 not only house and senate seats, but also congressional
21 seats. That's a huge responsibility.

22 Now, let me just say this, we are not hearing
23 a lot about independent maps, meaning someone other than
24 the legislature drawing these districts. Over the last

1 two years I have tallied and I have looked at my
2 colleagues on the democrat side of the aisle and there
3 is 31 current democrats in the House of Representatives
4 who signed on to an independent map process, taking the
5 pen out of the legislature's hands and doing it with an
6 independent group. As a matter of fact, the Speaker of
7 the House was a sponsor of one of those, of that
8 resolution of that bill a few years ago.

9 I would like to know where we are at with a
10 process that is going to take this all-important
11 decision out of our hands? That's what we all
12 campaigned on. It is not only just the people that I
13 mentioned, but the ones who ran for office this last
14 year, champions of fair, independent maps.

15 Well, this is the time to speak up, stand up,
16 put your money where your mouth is because I am afraid
17 that what I am seeing right now may be just another
18 repeat of what we have seen year-in, year-out. To the
19 victor go the spoils.

20 We have all said that it is better off,
21 particularly at these times, these times in this nation
22 and this state, to have a process that is going to be
23 not politically motivated. They can say that I am a
24 republican, I am in the minority, and that's just sour

1 grapes. Well, it is not so much about me. It is about
2 the 13 million people in the State of Illinois who want
3 fair representation.

4 We have seen what exactly has happened when so
5 much power has been given to one or two people. I don't
6 have to tell you what is playing out over at 219 South
7 Dearborn in Chicago, but the fact is if we want true
8 ethics reform, which we all talk about, do it in a fair
9 map process. Take it out of our hands.

10 Let me just add with another thing. You are
11 going to hear a little bit about an entity or a group
12 called the American Community Survey, which is a
13 offshoot of the U.S. Census Bureau.

14 We do not have our census numbers. We will
15 not get those until sometime later this summer, but I
16 believe that the intentions are both in the house and
17 senate that 118 legislative districts, and 59 house
18 districts, and the 59 senate seats and I am not sure how
19 many congressional seats we are going to have, are all
20 going to be based on a sampling from the American
21 Community Survey, not the U.S. Census Bureau.

22 The American Community Survey only samples 3.5
23 million housing units or group quarters in the United
24 States to get a demographic sampling of certain areas in

1 this country. You're looking at a state of what, some
2 12, 13 million people, but we are going to rely upon one
3 entity that only provides information for 3.5 million
4 Americans. And that's not right.

5 So I want you to hear about that and think
6 about that. There is no way that they can capture the
7 demographics of this state, particularly this state when
8 there has been so much out migration over the past few
9 years, but we are going to rely upon the ACS, American
10 Community Survey, who may at best have 200,000 samples
11 out of the State of Illinois.

12 So, I am interested to talk to the witnesses
13 today of their thoughts on those two issues. And as I
14 said earlier, there has never been a more important time
15 in this legislative body than we have over the next few
16 months when it comes to reapportionment, redistricting
17 of house, senate and congressional districts. Thank you
18 very much, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN TARVER: You are welcome, Leader
20 Durkin. And as much as I have been known to, and enjoy
21 going tit-for-tat on points, I won't do that today.
22 What I will say, because I was going to make sure we
23 have a clear record, is that the Illinois Constitution
24 requires what we are doing today.

1 And we are doing far more than is required by
2 the Constitution, and Leader Durkin and others, all of
3 us know that if we are unsatisfied with what the
4 Constitution says as of today, there is a process. We
5 are all duly elected and we can certainly go through
6 that process and change the Constitution, if we so
7 choose.

8 I also wanted to say because, again, I want a
9 clear record, there is a reference to 219 South
10 Dearborn. I can tell you this, I am unaware of any
11 allegations or any charges being brought against any
12 member of this body on either side of the aisle related
13 to redistricting and hearings.

14 So I just want to make sure that we have a clear
15 record. We are here to hear from everyone and we want
16 to hear your opinions and we want to have a very fair
17 process. And so to that end, let me just read into the
18 record, also.

19 We will be announcing a series of additional
20 regional hearings in the coming days. Like the hearings
21 we have held previously, these will be to hear from
22 members of the public about their communities, the
23 emerging demographics, and other feedback. Due to
24 hearings regarding other parts of this process will be

1 scheduled at a later date.

2 As you know, up to this point the work of the
3 committees has been focused on hearing from the public.
4 Maps produced on the public drawing photo will be posted
5 on the committee's page at ilga.gov, as they are
6 received. Similarly, written testimony shared with the
7 committee during these hearings will be posted on the
8 committee's web page on ilga.gov within the coming days.

9 Written transcripts -- and again, I have to
10 thank Madam Court Reporter, Sharon, again, for making
11 sure that we have a clear record for the public -- but
12 those transcripts, including these, will be online once
13 the court reporters have completed them. All these
14 documents will also be cross-posted on
15 ilhousedems.com/redistricting.

16 And so we are going to go to the first panel,
17 but I also wanted to make a housekeeping note. My
18 understanding is that we can only have up to 30 people
19 or so in this room, so if someone is here to testify,
20 great. If you are not here to testify, there is an
21 overflow room, I believe, on the fifth floor. I may
22 have to announce that again as people come in.

23 And again, if you signed up to testify today,
24 we will hear from you. I want to be very clear about

1 that. We want to hear from you, we will hear from you,
2 but you will be after the initial four panels who have
3 already signed up in advance. And we are going to have
4 a brief presentation and then we will be going straight
5 to witness testimony. Thank you.

6 ALLIE MCNAMARA: Good evening everybody. My
7 name is Allie McNamara, that's A-L-L-I-E,
8 M-C-N-A-M-A-R-A. I am an employee with the Illinois
9 House of Representatives and I am here to give a brief
10 overview of the state's redistricting procedure. I will
11 briefly discuss the background of redistricting and the
12 redistricting process here in Illinois.

13 I will also be going over federal and state
14 redistricting requirements and guidelines. Finally, we
15 will be looking at what preliminary data reveals about
16 population trends in the state and in the region.

17 Restricting is the process that ensures all
18 Illinois residents are afforded equal representation in
19 the state legislature and federal Congress as guaranteed
20 by the U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court held a
21 series of rulings in the 1960s that congressional and
22 state legislative districts in each state must be of
23 approximately equal population establishing the
24 principle of one person, one vote.

1 As a result, states redraw their congressional
2 and state districts every ten years to reflect changes
3 in population. The timeline for redrawing the
4 legislative maps is based on the Illinois Constitution.
5 The Constitution gives the Illinois legislature the
6 initial responsibility of passing the new legislative
7 map. Both the state house and the state senate must
8 pass a plan, which then must be signed by the governor.

9 If a new map does not go into effect by the
10 constitutional deadline of June 30th, responsibility for
11 creating a new map passes from the legislature to a
12 legislative redistricting commission. The commission
13 would consist of eight members with two each appointed
14 by the legislative leaders and no more than four of the
15 same political party.

16 A majority vote of five or more commission
17 members will constitute final approval of a new map.
18 However, if the commission does not agree to a map by
19 September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court will submit
20 two names, one from each party, to the Illinois
21 Secretary of State, who will then choose one name at
22 random to serve as the ninth member of the commission.
23 Five of the nine members of the commission must agree to
24 a plan no later than October 5th.

1 In order to understand the process of creating
2 new districts, we must look at some legal guiding
3 principles. First among these is equal population.
4 Congressional districts must be nearly equal in
5 population while state districts must be substantially
6 equal population.

7 Federal and state law also requires that all
8 districts be contiguous, which means that all parts of
9 the district must be next to each other unless connected
10 by water. Annexations in unincorporated areas in
11 municipalities and counties sometimes mean communities
12 are discontinuous. However, congressional and state
13 districts must be adjacent or connected at all points.

14 A more difficult requirement to define is
15 compactness. There are at least 30 different scientific
16 ways to measure how compact a district is, but no
17 statute or court precedent identifies standard criteria
18 of compactness. In theory, compactness focuses on the
19 shape of a district's boundaries, how spread out a
20 district is from a central core or where the district's
21 population center of gravity is.

22 In practice, compactness is hindered by
23 geography and on-the-ground realities. So often the
24 interpretation of compactness involves more than just a

1 visual test.

2 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests its
3 house districts, also called representative districts,
4 inside one of its senate districts, also called
5 legislative districts. Map makers will also look for a
6 possible to follow existing political and geographical
7 boundaries in ways to maximize a community's opportunity
8 to have its interest represented.

9 As you know, however, county municipalities,
10 township and natural geographic boundaries are not
11 always compact or contiguous. By studying population
12 data and holding public hearings like this one to listen
13 to the thoughts of residents across the state, lawmakers
14 look to identify what are known as communities of
15 interest.

16 A community of interest is a group of people
17 concentrated in a geographic area where socially,
18 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously or
19 otherwise alike, can be joined in the district to most
20 effectively have their voices heard. The factors
21 contributing to any particular community of interest
22 will vary across the state.

23 Federal law requires redistricting plans to
24 respect minority representation. The principles of the

1 Federal Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent the
2 reduction of opportunities for minority populations to
3 participate equally in the electoral process. However,
4 districts cannot be drawn solely on the basis of race.

5 Illinois law also protects representation of
6 racial and language minority groups. The Illinois
7 Voting Rights Act helps to prevent minority fracturing
8 or dividing of concentration of minorities among two or
9 more districts by requiring map makers to consider
10 creating crossover districts, coalition districts and
11 influence districts.

12 A crossover district is one in which a large
13 minority group may elect a candidate with its choice
14 with help from the voters of the majority group. A
15 coalition district brings multiple racial or language
16 minority groups together to elect a candidate of their
17 choice. An influence district allows a group to
18 influence an election outcome without being the majority
19 population in a district. These state law requirements
20 come into play only after compliance with federal law
21 and U.S. and state constitutional requirements on
22 redistricting.

23 In addition, the law ensures transparency and
24 public participation by requiring public hearings across

1 the state, one of which we are having right now. At the
2 end of the presentation, we will display an email
3 address on the screen that Chair Tarver already has
4 provided where you can submit your ideas. The committee
5 is also accepting written testimony today.

6 Now that we have covered the redistricting
7 process, let's discuss the data about knowing Illinois's
8 population. The U.S. Census Bureau has delayed much of
9 the release of the decennial census data by more than
10 six months until this fall. However, the U.S. Census
11 Bureau's annual population estimate shows some trends
12 that can help inform the work ahead.

13 The Census 2019 population estimate shows an
14 overall decline in state population over the past
15 decade. There are, however, areas that project to have
16 population gains. Communities with the largest
17 population by percentage increase since 2010 are
18 Kendall, Monroe, Champaign and Kane Counties.
19 Demographically speaking, the statewide population is
20 projected to decline, while African-American population
21 statewide will likely see a smaller overall decline.
22 The Hispanic and Asian population across Illinois are
23 expected to see growth.

24 Locally, around here in Aurora, they are

1 projected to see a modest increase in population. The
2 county's white population stands to decline, while
3 African-American, Asian, and Hispanic population will
4 likely increase. Thank you very much for your attention
5 and for coming to share your thoughts today.

6 As the Chair mentioned, you will be able to
7 find testimony from this and the other hearings on
8 ilga.gov and on ilhousedems/redistricting. The
9 redistricting website offers additional ways to engage
10 with the process including our public drawing portal
11 where you can draw and submit your own maps. You can
12 send further written testimony and suggestions to the
13 committee anytime by emailing
14 redistrictingcommittee@hgs@ilga.gov. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, Allie. Our first
16 panel will start with Dan Barreiro of the City of
17 Aurora. Dan, are you present?

18 And Dan, I should have said this earlier,
19 but -- no, please, come forward. Just make sure that
20 you state and spell your name for the record, please.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. BARREIRO: Dan Barreiro, B-A-R-R-E-I-R-O.
23 Good afternoon House Redistricting Committee members.
24 Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the

1 state's legislative districts. My name is Dan Barreiro
2 and I reside at 795 Bluebonnet Court in Aurora. I have
3 lived in Aurora for over 50 years.

4 Just three days ago our first African-American
5 Mayor, Richard C. Irvin, was overwhelming elected to a
6 second four-year term. And we also elected our first
7 Asian American Alderman, Shweta Baid. I am representing
8 the City of Aurora where I am the Chief Community
9 Service Officer and I have had the honor of working for
10 the citizens of our second largest city since 1986.

11 In Community Services, we take great efforts
12 to communicate with all ethnic communities in English,
13 Spanish, and sometimes other languages. As example, our
14 customer service center has bilingual staff and we
15 utilize a language line service to communicate with
16 residents who speak languages other than English or
17 Spanish. We also provide support to three cultural
18 boards and we work with 25 neighborhood groups and some
19 of those have their meetings in Spanish.

20 Since incorporating into the City of Aurora in
21 1857, Aurora has grown into four counties, seven school
22 districts, six townships, and two community college
23 districts. We have a rapidly growing population and a
24 long history of diversity. This trend continues as the

1 new 2020 census data will reveal.

2 Based on the 2010 census, Aurora's Hispanic
3 community number 81,809, which is 41 percent of the
4 community, followed by the African-American community
5 with a population of 20,348, representing 10 percent,
6 and the Asian community with a population of 13,105,
7 representing 6.6 percent of our community. Aurora is
8 Latinx and Asian populations are sure to make huge gains
9 again when the numbers are finalized for the 2020
10 census.

11 At the present time, Aurora has primarily two
12 senate districts and four representative districts.
13 Because of Aurora's population, it is difficult to have
14 Aurora in only one senate district and two
15 representative districts. The current boundaries have
16 worked well in providing representation for Aurora's
17 residents. We have excellent diversity among our
18 legislatures and we are proud to have three excellent
19 women now in the Illinois House, Representatives
20 Kifowit, Hernandez and Hirschauer. And of course, one
21 man, Representative Keith Wheeler.

22 In the senate, we have Senators Linda Holmes
23 and Karina Villa. But as the second largest city in the
24 State of Illinois, it is important for Aurora to

1 maintain its voice in Springfield as a diverse community
2 is important, and ethnic communities are not split up so
3 they have a weaker voice. It is important to not dilute
4 their presence. When you are reviewing the data for
5 redistricting, please consider equity, inclusion, and
6 representation.

7 This public hearing is a great beginning. It
8 will be great if similar hearings could be held on the
9 proposed legislative maps before a final vote is taken.
10 And I hope that the second largest city in Illinois
11 keeps a seat at the table when the final maps are drawn.
12 Thanks again, for the opportunity.

13 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, Dan, and if you
14 have a few moments to stick around just in case there a
15 question for your panel, we would appreciate that.

16 MR. BARREIRO: Absolutely.

17 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, sir. So next my
18 note says that we have members of the Aurora City
19 Council. Is there a member of the Aurora City Council
20 present who wishes to testify? If so, we will come
21 back. I don't see anyone right now.

22 Next, I have Brian Pollock of the Kane County
23 Clerk's Office. Brian, are you available or present?

24 FEMALE SPEAKER: I think he went upstairs.

1 CHAIRMAN TARVER: He is upstairs, you believe?

2 Okay. Well, Brian, if you can hear the sound of my
3 voice, please come downstairs so that you can testify.

4 We will go to the next person. We certainly want to
5 hear from you, if you are here in the building. Is
6 Cheryl Strathman from the Kane County Board in this
7 room? Or Michelle Gumz from the Kane County Board?

8 Okay.

9 MS. GUMZ: I don't have anything written.

10 CHAIRMAN TARVER: That's perfectly fine.

11 MS. GUMZ: Thank you for the opportunity to
12 address you today and testify.

13 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Sorry, just one second,
14 Michelle. I believe that mic is on, but I know we had a
15 note that it was hard for the people in the back to
16 hear, I believe. So if you can speak up, of course we
17 would appreciate that. And also, don't forget to spell
18 your name for the record.

19 MS. GUMZ: Very good.

20 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, Michelle.

21 MS. GUMZ: My name is Michelle Gumz, G-U-M as
22 in Mary, -Z as in zebra. I am with the Kane County
23 Board. Thank you for the opportunity today to address
24 you and testify.

1 CHAIRMAN TARVER: I'm sorry, Michelle. I was
2 raised better than to continue to cut somebody off, but
3 I think she is working on the microphone right now. So
4 maybe we should just give her a minute or two and then
5 that way you won't have to yell and people will still be
6 able to hear.

7 MS. GUMZ: Again, my name is Michelle Gumz,
8 G-U-M-Z, from the Kane County Board. I am newly
9 elected. I want to thank you all for this opportunity
10 to testify. I have lived in Aurora my entire life.
11 Thank you all very much for the opportunity to testify.

12 As a newly elected official here in Kane
13 County, I am looking forward to a continued relationship
14 with our legislatures. I have made some connections
15 with many on both sides of the aisle in the house and
16 the senate, and representing the district here,
17 extremely diverse.

18 We look forward to an equitable map drawing
19 process, engagement back and forth with you and our
20 county officials, so that we can get these things done
21 properly and correctly to represent our minority
22 community, we have rural, we have black, Latinx, our
23 Asian communities and we need to make sure those are
24 properly represented to going forward.

1 Again, I am new to this procedure, so I am
2 learning as I go, but I know that you guys will do a
3 great job and we would like to keep that communication
4 available and open. And thank you for the opportunity
5 to speak. I really didn't have anything prepared so.

6 CHAIRMAN TARVER: You did a great job. Thank
7 you for your testimony. If you can stick around for
8 just a couple of moments in case there are any questions
9 for either you or Dan from the City of Aurora, I would
10 appreciate it. So unless Cherryl Strathman is here --

11 MS. GUMZ: Cherryl is not here.

12 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Okay. So then Dan and
13 Michelle, you conclude the first panel, and we will go
14 to questions, in case there are questions for either of
15 you. Spokesperson Butler?

16 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I
17 just have, not a question per se, but I appreciate both
18 Dan and Michelle, your testimony. And I think it
19 underscores one of the concerns that we have on the
20 republican side of the island as well, as the same
21 concerns that you have about adequate representation of
22 everyone, of minority populations. I am glad that you
23 mentioned rural. That has come up on a couple of
24 committee meetings today.

1 I represent a large sloth of rural downstate
2 Illinois in my district and a lot of concerns in the
3 rural areas, but the data that we are looking to use
4 probably, most likely what we think, which Leader Durkin
5 alluded to earlier, is the American Community Survey
6 Data, which is incomplete data. It is not the data we
7 need to use. It is not the decennial census data. The
8 decennial census data. The decennial census data, which
9 is the granular census block level data that we need to
10 use won't be available until at least August, maybe
11 September.

12 The problem with using American Community
13 Survey Data is the fact that it -- and this has been
14 testified in these hearings, it under represents largely
15 minority populations. It under represents rural small
16 communities, communities under 65,000. And when you
17 look at the community survey data, you can have wide
18 swings in data, especially in minority groups from year-
19 to-year with the American Community Survey data.

20 So we have really talked about this a lot in
21 these hearings and I appreciate your testimony, and I
22 hope the majority listens to this because if maps are
23 pushed out with American Community Survey, they are not
24 going to represent communities adequately, they are not.

1 And so I hope when you are talking to your local elected
2 state representatives and state senators, that you make
3 it known that data is not going to be good enough to
4 draw the maps this year. It is just not.

5 So I appreciate the testimony and I appreciate
6 you all being here and making pretty much the same point
7 I think we have been making as well so...

8 MS. GUMZ: I have a follow up. Speaking of
9 the insufficient data, I do have a question. There is
10 some legislation that has been proposed to grant
11 extensions for these issues, and I would also like you
12 to consider those. I don't know if they will be helpful
13 or not. But there are some deadlines that people are
14 going to have a hard time reaching. So those are issues
15 that I have my radars on, so hopefully you all will,
16 also.

17 MR. BUTLER: Well, for the County Board, you
18 have a July 1 deadline and that's a big issue, and that
19 is an issue that I brought up in these committee
20 hearings. Actually, I have brought up previously. If
21 there are plans from the democrats to look at that
22 process to assist local redistricting so they can use --
23 so you guys can use the data when it comes in later in
24 the year. And I think that would be the right thing to.

1 Legislatively for the legislative maps,
2 obviously we have constitutional strictures that we have
3 to follow, but it is a process that gets laid out
4 through the legislature acting by June 30th. If the
5 legislature doesn't enact something by June 30th, then
6 there is a process in place that shows us how to do it
7 that we can actually use that data in the process that's
8 spelled out in the Constitution for the legislative maps
9 as well.

10 But you are right. I think we have a real
11 concern about local redistricting, given the statutes
12 that are on the books and you are going to be obligated
13 to draw maps, same as us, without the right data being
14 in place there.

15 MS. GUMZ: Thank you for addressing that.

16 MR. BARREIRO: In the City of Aurora, we had a
17 complete count committee and we had representation, you
18 know, across the city from the different school
19 districts, the different counties and we tried to make
20 sure everybody was at the table to try to get a good
21 count.

22 Based on your presentation on this criteria,
23 we would be concerned if we didn't get equal
24 representation based on old data of Aurora. We had some

1 growth, we had some new construction. So we know we
2 have some new roof tops, some new transient-oriented
3 development, so we know we have had some gains.
4 Hopefully, we won't have an under count. We worked
5 really hard to ensure that we didn't, but we are not
6 going to be one of the communities that are losing
7 population from some nongrowth.

8 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you. Just wanted to
9 say thank you to both Dan and Michelle for not only your
10 testimony, but the follow up to give us even further
11 clarification on where you stand. So just want to say
12 thank you. We are going to go to the next panel, but
13 just give me one moment.

14 We are going to go to the second panel and for
15 the witnesses, just let's try to sit in this seat. I
16 think this microphone is working now. Make sure you
17 state and spell your name for the record, please. The
18 first person that I have is Theodia Gillespie from the
19 Quad County Urban League. I see she is making her way
20 to the front.

21 Good evening, how are you?

22 MS. GILLESPIE: I am great. Good afternoon,
23 good evening. Thank you to the panel allowing me to
24 speak here today. My name is Theodia Gillespie,

1 T-H-E-O-D-I-A, Gillespie, G-I-L-L-E-S-P-I-E. I am the
2 President of the Quad County Urban League and we serve
3 DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties. But I also
4 live in Aurora and I live at 60505. So my comments
5 today is I am going to share my presentation, but will
6 focus on the need of equitable representation.

7 Redistricting has serious real life
8 implication for our area residents, as we all know, an
9 implication that should not be determined by party
10 affiliation. Allow me to just paint a realistic picture
11 of an area, an area where I live, which is the 60505 zip
12 code. So 19.2 percent of residents lives in below the
13 poverty line in the most distressed communities. 22.7
14 percent of working age adults were out of work. The
15 medium household income was \$49,400 compared to across
16 the river, \$61,200 in 60506.

17 On average, 20.6 percent adults in the most
18 distressed communities did not have a high school
19 diploma. But in 60505, it was 43.2 percent that did not
20 have a high school diploma. And only 8 percent of those
21 in that community has a bachelor's degree or higher.

22 The 60505 zip code area schools were in the
23 least desirable qualities of the EIG Index, economic and
24 social well being. A Distressed Community Index score

1 of 85.9 out of 100. So you asked why this information
2 is so important, it is because of the representation.
3 And so I am not going to go through the rest of that,
4 but what I want to say that legislative representation
5 matters, no matter what data that we get.

6 Minority representation matters. Additional
7 representation matters. All citizens must have a voice.
8 And they must have advocates and we have been fortunate
9 to have advocates that represent our community. They
10 must have representation who understand their plight.
11 You mentioned about a committee. California, Colorado,
12 Michigan and Missouri are among the states that have
13 given over the power to draw the lines of legislative
14 districts to nonpartisan commissions.

15 And what they realized is that the well-being
16 of citizens should not be determined by excessive
17 partisanship, but partisanship coupled with ever-
18 restricted voting laws, which is a major concern for me
19 at the Urban League. Without this, we will accelerate
20 to have systems and have nots. The back-to-back
21 recessions and once-in-a-lifetime pandemic have already
22 compounded. This is what we do not want to create in
23 our communities.

24 In 1776 Founding Father John Adams wrote, "Our

1 representatives assembly should be an exact portrait of
2 the people at large. It should think, feel, reason and
3 act like them. Great care should be taken to effect
4 this."

5 So redistricting must be fair and equitable
6 for all Aurora neighborhoods, and all citizens of this
7 state. We should look at the data to make sure that the
8 representation looks like those individuals that lives
9 in those communities, and that we encourage this body to
10 make great care not to dismiss those that need us most.

11 That is what the Urban League is for, and that
12 is what we will continue to fight for, the right for
13 fair representation within our state, and fair
14 representation of those who represent and who lives in
15 our community. Thank you for the opportunity to
16 present.

17 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you very much,
18 Ms. Gillespie. And if you could stick around in the
19 room for a few minutes in case there are any questions,
20 we appreciate it.

21 MS. GILLESPIE: Absolutely.

22 CHAIRMAN TARVER: I am just going to note that
23 it is difficult for individuals to hear, so I guess we
24 are all going to have to talk up a little bit more. The

1 next person I have is Ricky Rodgers from
2 African-American Men of Unity. Ricky, while you are
3 walking up, I am just going to remind you to please
4 state and spell your name for the record and I guess
5 speak as loudly as you can. Thank you.

6 MR. RODGERS: All right. Hello, everyone. My
7 name is Ricky Rodgers, R-I-C-K-Y, R-O-D-G-E-R-S, and I
8 live at 945 Hammond Avenue, and of course, I am the
9 Director for the African-American Men of Unity. We have
10 been around since 1999, and we provide leadership
11 development, manhood training, mentoring and life skills
12 for average youth ages 7 to 21.

13 My concern is this. Well, first of all, first
14 and foremost, I want to acknowledge the fact that
15 Ms. Gillespie definitely laid out some good things that
16 we need to look at, and so I won't echo a lot of those,
17 but she definitely covered those very well. And that
18 definitely needs to be looked at, the inequality, and to
19 make sure that we have fair representation.

20 So my concern is this. Redistricting in the
21 past has had a negative impact on minorities, blacks in
22 particular. Red lining, which is used to determine the
23 denial of home loans and access to jobs paying a living
24 wage. Rivers and roads have been used to divide towns

1 and separating the haves from the have nots.
2 Gerrymandering has been used to suppress votes and give
3 one party an advantage over another.

4 My question is this, will redistricting
5 correct funding inequality in the school systems?
6 Because minority schools in particular are underfunded.
7 Will it correct disparities amongst poor people having
8 access to critical resources? Will it correct over
9 population of disadvantaged students attending the same
10 school district or increase the number of businesses
11 located in the underfunded districts?

12 We are drawing the lines, eliminating food
13 deserts, and what data systems are they going to use for
14 map and design? And I think you had mentioned that the
15 American Community, their system would be used. If
16 that's going to be inappropriate, it would seem as
17 though we would want to get the best count as possible
18 to represent the people so we can have the most accurate
19 representation.

20 And so I think if that is the case, something
21 should be done by the committee to assure that we are
22 using the best sample to represent the people,
23 especially the ones that are in need or communities of
24 interest, as you mentioned earlier.

1 And my last question is, what major changes
2 will we see as a result of redistricting? And the idea
3 I think should be to correct some of the disparities
4 that we know that exist that we always talked about on
5 various fronts from the not having access to COVID
6 vaccinations and proper school funding and so we need to
7 address a lot of those.

8 And then the over-representation of
9 African-Americans in particular in the penal systems,
10 and underemployed, so we need to look at all of those
11 things to try to improve those conditions. And that's
12 all I have for you right now. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, very much, Ricky,
14 and if you could stick around, I anticipate there might
15 be a couple of questions for you as well.

16 MR. RODGERS: Thank you, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Next, we have Deena Habbal
18 with Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition. Deena, are you
19 here?

20 Then I have Becky Simon of the League of Women
21 Voters of Naperville. Nice to see you in person, Becky.
22 I think I last saw you via Zoom, so welcome.

23 MS. SIMON: Hello. Becky Simon, B-E-C-K-Y,
24 S-I-M-O-N. I am Becky Simon with the League of Women

1 Voters of Naperville. The League of Women Voters of
2 Illinois has worked for reforms to the state restricting
3 process since the 1990s. Since the 1990s. For the past
4 decade, efforts have focused on an amendment to the
5 Illinois Constitution to provide for a more transparent
6 process and community input through an independent
7 commission.

8 The League of Women Voters of Illinois
9 believes responsibility for redistricting should be
10 vested in an independent special commission.
11 Additionally, the League supports redistricting
12 processes and enforceable standards that promote fair
13 and effective representation at all levels of government
14 with maximum opportunity for public participation.

15 Prior to the last redistricting in 2011, the
16 Illinois General Assembly passed a bill protecting the
17 voting rights of racial and linguistic minority
18 communities and requiring the legislature to hold a
19 minimum of four public hearings before passing
20 redistricting plans. However, there was no time allowed
21 for incorporating public input after the maps were
22 proposed.

23 The 2011 bill will not be enough in 2021.
24 This year complete 2020 census data will not be

1 available until well past the date by which the Illinois
2 General Assembly or a back-up commission is
3 constitutionally required to draw maps. Therefore, it
4 is essential for the ILGA to pass legislation like SB
5 2554 that will provide transparency and allow for more
6 public input into the redistricting process.

7 The legislation should require four things.
8 35 public redistricting hearings to surpass the number
9 held in 2011. A public hearing after the introduction
10 of a final map that will allow for adjustments to be
11 made before ILGA or a back-up commission vote. Thirdly,
12 a website for maps submissions from the public and
13 relevant records from the General Assembly's work on the
14 remap.

15 Fourthly, written evidence the final proposed
16 map meets the Federal Voting Rights Act and Illinois
17 Voting Rights Act standards, ensures effective
18 representation of racial and linguistic minorities and
19 provides for preservation and protection of community
20 stakeholders.

21 To enable the public to participate in the
22 redistricting process, it is imperative that more
23 information be provided about how hearings will be
24 conducted, what will be discussed, and that greater

1 notice be given about hearing dates. Thank you for
2 considering legislation that will make the redistricting
3 process more accessible, equitable and transparent.

4 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, Becky, and if you
5 could stick around for a few moments, we will appreciate
6 that as well. I have a note here that Representative
7 Kifowit has written testimony from the Naperville
8 Township Dems and would like to read it into the record.

9 MS. KIFOWIT: Thank you, Chair, and members of the
10 committee. Stephanie Kifowit, S-T-E-P-H-A-N-I-E, last
11 name, K-I-F-O-W-I-T. I appreciate the indulgence to be
12 able to read comments from Gautam Bhatia. He is with
13 the Naperville Township and his name is G-A-U-T-A-M and
14 his last name is B-H-A-T-I-A.

15 And he wanted me to convey to the committee
16 his appreciation for you to have this hearing in Aurora,
17 and he sends his regrets. He is unable to attend the
18 hearing today due to the effects of a post-COVID second
19 dose. And he appreciates being able to have these
20 comments in the record and for me to convey them for
21 him.

22 He states: Redistricting can have a huge
23 impact in our community and representation at the state
24 level. He continues, the Indian-American community in

1 Aurora is the fastest growing minority that lives
2 predominately on the east side of Aurora and west side
3 of Naperville along the Route 59 corridor. This
4 demographic should be taken into consideration when
5 determining the boundaries of the district so that the
6 Indian-American community has a future opportunity for
7 representation at the state level.

8 This goal should be balanced with the current
9 district boundaries because the general community is
10 happy with the representative. Thank you. And he is
11 happy to be representing the Indian-American community
12 and wanted to express that, again, that that is a
13 growing community in Aurora and would like that to be in
14 consideration for the redistricting as well. So thank
15 you, Chair, and members of the committee.

16 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you very much. And so
17 that actually completes the second panel. So if there
18 are questions for either Ms. Gillespie or Mr. Rodgers,
19 do you have any questions?

20 MR. BUTLER: I can never pass up the
21 opportunity, Mr. Chairman, you know that.

22 CHAIRMAN TARVER: You almost did last time.

23 MR. BUTLER: I almost did.

24 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Questions by Spokesperson

1 Butler.

2 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I
3 just -- Ms. Gillespie, I appreciate your testimony, I
4 really do, because when you mentioned other states and
5 the fact that many other states have gone to commission
6 format. We have tried that in Illinois, a lot of us
7 have tried very hard to get it out of the hands as this
8 entire panel seems to have testified to that, the League
9 of Women Voters, yourself.

10 And this is something that we have heard time
11 and time again. And I will just say there is a lot of
12 talk about these hearings being transparent and open and
13 you can go online and you can submit your maps and all
14 this kind of stuff. What is going to happen at the end
15 of the day, I believe, is that the majority of democrats
16 are going to pass maps by June 30, so they can get them
17 done by the June 30 deadline.

18 We are not going to use the commission,
19 unfortunately. It is going to be the same old way of
20 doing business, and it is going to be political. And
21 you talked about that. There shouldn't be politics in
22 it, but it is going to be political.

23 And honestly, both parties have done that over
24 the years, that's the problem. That's why the citizens

1 of Illinois want to go to a nonpartisan, independent
2 commission to draw their maps. But again, I think you
3 need to talk to your local representatives to hold them
4 accountable about the fact that what is going to happen
5 is not what we want to happen.

6 And on top of that, the best data available as
7 Mr. Rodgers mentioned, the best data available is going
8 to come out in August or September. That's the data
9 that we always use to draw our maps. If we draw maps
10 before that, it is going to under represent minority
11 populations. It is going to under represent rural
12 populations. And we are going to be stuck with the same
13 old gerrymandered maps that we have had for time and
14 memorial here in Illinois.

15 And so I appreciate your testimony because --
16 for all your testimony because you are underscoring a
17 lot of the frustrations that we have heard from now
18 dozens of witnesses at these hearings. I have not heard
19 a single person step forward in any of these hearings to
20 say hey, majority democrats, why don't you get the maps
21 done by June 30th? Nobody has said that. Nobody.
22 People want an independent map, they want a fair map,
23 that's what we want, and I wish that we would get to
24 that point, but I am fearful that that is not going to

1 happen.

2 CHAIRMAN TARVER: I just wanted to make sure
3 you don't have a question, Representative Butler. I am
4 not trying to be sarcastic.

5 MR. BUTLER: No, no.

6 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Leader Durkin.

7 MR. DURKIN: A brief statement. We talk about
8 deadlines, but let's make sure that you understand what
9 the deadline means. So we have this deadline at the end
10 of June, that is for a politically drawn map. A
11 politically drawn map by the house and the senate.

12 The Secretary of State is the one who
13 ultimately certifies the legislative maps for the ballot
14 for the next election cycle, and that is not certified
15 until the first week of October. So the suggestion that
16 we have a hard deadline to get these done is not quite
17 true. Remember, the end of June is for a politically
18 drawn map to get to the governor. That's why if it
19 doesn't make it to the governor by that date, then a
20 commission is appointed and then they are hopefully -- I
21 mean, this process is kind of nonsense because you get
22 four-and-four -- house democrats, four republicans, four
23 democrats, so hopefully they can resolve whatever
24 differences there are.

1 But if they can't reach that decision, they
2 pluck a name out of a hat, out of Abe Lincoln's hat, to
3 see who gets an additional member on the commission. I
4 mean, it is just so backwards. That's how this process
5 works. But what we are trying to say is that there is a
6 better way of going about this, and that just because
7 there is this arbitrary, or let's say -- I won't say
8 this arbitrary -- this date that we are talking about,
9 which means we have to get things done, it doesn't mean
10 that we can't find an alternative to do this.

11 Do this process, which everyone in this room
12 has said we want to make sure it is fair, that we are
13 going to get representation, will be accurate based on
14 whatever census information we use. So just be clear.
15 I just want to be clear about that. That while the end
16 of June is a deadline, there still is opportunity for
17 state government stakeholders to present an alternative
18 process to drawing these legislative districts.

19 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you. That concludes
20 the second panel. I will say just so the record is
21 clear, and I am glad that we have the court reporter
22 here. What I jotted down in my notes, I don't have
23 Mr. Rodgers as saying that the information is not the
24 best. The question was -- it was actually a question

1 posed to the panel, if this information is not the best
2 information, why don't we wait for additional
3 information?

4 So that to me strikes as an opinion and a
5 question more so than a definitive statement. So I just
6 want to make sure the record is clear in that regard.

7 We are going to move to Panel 3, and the first
8 person on Panel 3 is Jose Zambrano from Central State
9 Sers is what it says, I apologize. Jose, are you
10 present and available to testify?

11 Okay. I then have Susan Sosa Bachmeier from
12 World Relief. I see Susan is making her way. And if
13 you could spell your name and speak loudly. Thank you
14 very much.

15 MS. SOSA BACHMEIER: Thank you for this
16 opportunity. My name is Susan Sosa Bachmeier.
17 S-U-S-A-N, S-O-S-A, B-A-C-H-M-E-I-E-R. I am happy to be
18 here. Thank you. I am also Commissioner of the Human
19 Relations Commission of the City of Aurora where we deal
20 with cases of discrimination, and what we promote is
21 also diversity and collaboration.

22 As a World Relief staff, World Relief is a
23 nonprofit organization, and we have offices around the
24 United States and overseas. In Illinois, we have

1 offices in Aurora, Carol Stream, Chicago, and Moline.
2 Moline in the Quad Cities, that is Western Illinois and
3 the Iowa border. And we mostly serve all Illinois, even
4 sometimes we have clients that come from other states.

5 So for over 30 years in Aurora we have been
6 serving and welcoming immigrants and refugees in the
7 community. In Chicago and DuPage we started 40 years
8 ago, since 1979. Just in the last year, 2020, we have
9 served 6800 immigrants from 122 countries. In 2020,
10 6800 immigrants from one 122 countries.

11 So I am very proud that this state is very
12 diverse and I am coming here because I feel the
13 responsibility to advocate about this diversity in our
14 community. Some of them I have witnessed as I have been
15 working at World Relief for 15 years in the City of
16 Aurora, thousands have become citizens. I am a new
17 citizen as well and I am very proud to live in this
18 democracy and I want people to represent me while I am a
19 productive member of the society.

20 At World Relief we serve immigrants including
21 refugees and asylees, victims of violent crimes and
22 human trafficking. Our focus is for a long-term
23 community integration and we focus on bridge -- to
24 either bridge the gap between immigrants and the local

1 communities and the resources.

2 Our services starts from pickup from the
3 airport, find housing, enroll children to school. We
4 have classes, citizenship classes, English classes, help
5 them apply to jobs. Help obtain a driver's license.
6 Familiarize with the culture. I work in the Immigration
7 Legal Services Department. I have had people reunite
8 with family members. I help Dreamers and DACA, legal
9 permanent residents, people apply for legal permanent
10 residency or green card, and people to become citizens.

11 We are a recognized agency. World Relief is a
12 recognized agency and we work with the Department of
13 Homeland Security, Department of State, Department of
14 Justice, Department of Human Services to assist the
15 immigrant communities. We are like a refugee
16 resettlement agency like Catholic Charities or HIAS,
17 Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

18 Some of the countries, we have several, we
19 mention they are from Asian communities, they are from
20 different countries. We have Bhutan the Thai
21 community. We have the Pakistan community, the
22 Afghanistan. We have all other communities, Turkish
23 communities, Myanmar Burmese community, that is growing
24 as well in our areas. From African countries, we have

1 from Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia,
2 Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Cameroon, to mention
3 some of them.

4 As I mentioned earlier, thousands have become
5 citizens, which are looking forward to legal descentent.
6 Many immigrants, including refugees and asylees are
7 productive members of society, and have found hope in
8 this country that have welcomed us. I ask that this
9 redistrict process will be fair and promote, create
10 equal opportunity, offer representation in the
11 government, to promote opportunities and education that
12 are fair for everyone, despite their country of birth
13 and despite their economic/social background.

14 I think it should be equal opportunity of
15 education for everyone and equal representation in the
16 government, law enforcement, fire department. And to
17 promote signs and technology, too, for the groups,
18 especially for the impoverished places. So thank you,
19 also, for this opportunity. That's all.

20 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, very much, Susan.
21 Next, I have a note that we have an individual that is
22 here to testify on behalf of the Association for
23 Individual Development, AID. If you can state and spell
24 your name for the record, you can go right into

1 testimony. Thank you.

2 MS. BAKER: Certainly. My name is Lore Baker,
3 L-O-R-E, B-A-K-E-R. I am the President and CEO of the
4 Association for Individual Development or A-I-D. We are
5 headquartered here in Aurora and serve a seven county
6 area in the far western suburbs. We support people with
7 intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as
8 behavioral health diagnoses. And I am just here to
9 remind you about thinking about people with disabilities
10 when you are thinking about the redistricting map.

11 In Kane County we have about a 5.6 percent of
12 our population with a disability who is under age 65.
13 And representation and access for people with
14 disabilities is often limited. So I want to just remind
15 people to ensure that this process includes
16 representation of people with disabilities, and that we
17 think about plain simple language and pictorial
18 representations and other ways that we can engage and
19 work with the disability community. And that's it.
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, very much. Next
22 on the panel we have Adriana Franco from Simply
23 Destinee. Adriana, are you present? Okay. I also have
24 Natalie Bonner from Talented Tenth Social Services.

1 Natalie, are you present?

2 MS. BONNER: I am present. Good afternoon to
3 everyone. I am Natalie Bonner, N-A-T-A-L-I-E, Bonner,
4 B-O-N-N-E-R. I represent Talented Tenth Social
5 Services, which is a nonprofit organization and our
6 mission is to educate and empower disenfranchised
7 families in Chicagoland by providing community
8 initiatives, programs and referral services. We are
9 located downtown Aurora, right up the street, actually,
10 on Downer Place.

11 I wanted to offer some observations. Prior to
12 that, I would like to definitely coincide with what
13 Theodia and Ricky Rodgers said as far as the importance
14 of proper representation for all of the different
15 cultures and nationalities that we have here in Aurora,
16 who I see majority would be the Latinx community as well
17 as the African-American community. And the problems are
18 always the same as far as access.

19 Ricky definitely mentioned as far as how the
20 lines can vary from what type of education that you may
21 receive. If you are on the east side versus the west
22 side. I am also from Aurora, Illinois, and I can
23 contest to that. When I graduated from West Aurora High
24 School in 2000, we were experiencing the same issues.

1 The test scores on the east side were always
2 significantly lower than those on the west side.

3 So it is very important that whatever happens
4 through the redistricting, that all of the individuals
5 who are in need get better access. The homeless
6 population, they need access so that they can get homes.
7 They need access to computers so that they can fill out
8 resumes. A lot of those things they don't have the
9 access to, even in downtown Aurora.

10 So hopefully with all the testimonies from the
11 different organizations, and the different community
12 members, this time we can see a difference and offer
13 more representation amongst the community and better
14 access. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you
15 all.

16 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you very much, and
17 that concludes our third panel. So if there are any
18 questions or comments for Susan, Lore Baker from the
19 Association Individual Development or Natalie Bonner
20 from the Talented Tenth Social Services, any questions?
21 Let the record reflect that Representative Butler is not
22 asking a question. Thank you, seriously, to those who
23 have testified.

24 We are going to go to our fourth panel and at

1 the top of the list I have Marjorie Logman. Marjorie,
2 are you here?

3 MS. LOGMAN: Yes, I am.

4 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Awesome. Thank you so much.

5 MS. LOGMAN: Thank you. Thank you for having
6 the microphone at my level. My name is Marjorie Logman,
7 M-A-R-J-O-R-I-E, L-O-G-M-A-N. I have, for over 70
8 years, been a resident of Kane County, have family
9 members represented in both parties, republican and
10 democrat. I realized today that we are dealing with
11 another blunder of the previous administration as far as
12 quality census work. I realize by law, districting
13 cannot wait until the census is totally rectified.

14 We all realize that what is done now has
15 consequences for the next ten years and must be thought
16 through carefully. The Founders intended that
17 representation be equal and those elected would
18 represent districts in the interest of their
19 constituents and not for party or personal gain. As Joe
20 Biden says, he represents all Americans, republicans and
21 democrats alike.

22 Throughout the years, redistricting has become
23 a bad game played by both sides, giving us districts
24 that make no sense. As party dominance changes, the

1 districts are aligned under the premise of turnabout
2 fair play. This is one of the ways our democracy is
3 eroding.

4 There is a proposal to use sampling of
5 households to move the process forward. This I would
6 feel would be okay only as long as the sampling is not
7 cherry picked and include all cultural demographics.
8 Dividing neighborhoods, counties and even school
9 districts into different districts because of voting
10 democratic demographics or to exclude certain
11 populations is unfair and undemocratic. This is often
12 seen through scraggly lines on maps.

13 Population growth should change these lines,
14 but not to the exclusion of people or to merely gain
15 party votes. This takes away from fair and equitable
16 representation. I am for a nonpartisan board to draw
17 the district maps. These positions should not be
18 appointed by elected officials. At this time we must
19 move ahead so candidates can understand their new
20 districts and prepare for up and coming elections.

21 My question to you is, can you get the
22 legislation through that we can get a new panel and wait
23 or do we need to go ahead now? Because I know the
24 wheels of government turn slow. Is that possible?

1 Thank you, very much.

2 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, Marjorie. Next
3 on the panel, we have Dorothy Johnson-Linner.

4 MS. JOHNSON-LINNER: My name is Dorothy
5 Johnson-Linner. D-O-R-O-T-H-Y, J-O-H-N-S-O-N, hyphen,
6 L-I-N-N-E-R. I live at 2548 Pinehurst Drive in Aurora.
7 I have lived on the west side of Aurora for 27 years and
8 I am employed by the West Aurora School District and I
9 serve in the capacity of a fifth grade school teacher.

10 For the last 22 years I have lived in the
11 Orchard Valley Subdivision located in the Sugar Grove
12 Township. Since January of 2019, I have been
13 represented by Lauren Underwood in Congress. After this
14 committee completes its work, I hope that Lauren
15 Underwood would be able to remain my congresswoman.
16 Even though Lauren represents a broad district, she has
17 been very responsive to her constituents. In her time
18 in office I have been able to meet with her in Batavia,
19 Geneva and Oswego.

20 Now that's important when you think about the
21 west side of Aurora. For me that corridor going up and
22 down Orchard Road, going up and down Randall Road is
23 important. When you asked about what are the social
24 parameters for someone who lives on the west side, if I

1 get Thai food, I get it in Batavia. If I take my dog to
2 the vet, I take him to Yorkville. So even though I live
3 in Aurora, I don't go east into the city of Aurora. I
4 don't go to Naperville. There is too much traffic; it
5 is too difficult. I go north and south.

6 So for me, and that's not in my written
7 response, that's the response to something that you
8 raised earlier. So my experience with Lauren is that
9 she has been responsive and very in tune with my issues
10 and my concerns. And that had not been my experience
11 with other representatives that I have dealt with in the
12 past. So I feel Lauren shares my values and she
13 understands.

14 So I recognize that changes are going to be
15 made in light of the new census information, but I hope
16 that this committee ensures that the west side of Aurora
17 continues to be placed in the 14th District. And I will
18 also speak up for the statisticians in the world. There
19 is nothing wrong with taking a sample. My husband is
20 mathematician at the Northern Illinois University.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you very much. Next I
23 have Robyn Vickers.

24 MS. VICKERS: Hello. Thank you for allowing

1 us to testify today, and be a part of this process. My
2 name is Robyn Vickers, R-O-B-Y-N, V-I-C-K-E-R-S. I
3 represent the 2nd District of the Kendall County Board.
4 As we heard earlier in the presentation, Kendall is
5 still the fastest growing county in the state. Even
6 though we are relatively small, we have a population of
7 129,000 residents. Our residents live in suburban,
8 exurban and rural communities, so the needs are very
9 diverse.

10 Kendall is currently represented by two
11 congressional districts and bordered by a third. These
12 divisions are most obviously in our neighborhood,
13 Boulder Hill, which is the largest unincorporated
14 subdivision in the country, and it is also one of the
15 most diverse communities in the county. This
16 neighborhood has 3,000 homes and 8,000 residents and it
17 is split both for state representatives and senators, as
18 well as two congressional districts.

19 The boundaries do not fall on natural
20 divisions, so the distinctions are confusing to
21 residents. Because this neighborhood's needs are so
22 unique, I think it makes sense to consolidate them into
23 one congressional district and one state district.

24 As a County Board Member, I have built strong

1 working relationships with both Congresswoman Underwood
2 and Congressman Foster. Overall, I believe Kendall fits
3 more into the makeup of the 14th District because it is
4 so diverse with exurban, suburban and rural, and the
5 11th District is really more suburban. In order to best
6 serve the residents of the county, I hope the committee
7 will consider consolidating all of Kendall into the 14th
8 District. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, Robyn. Next I
10 have Patricia Merryweather-Arges.

11 MS. MERRYWEATHER-ARGES: Good afternoon.
12 Patricia Merryweather-Arges. Pat, P-A-T,
13 M-E-R-R-Y-W-E-A-T-H-E-R, hyphen, A-R-G-E-S. That's
14 quite a bit. I actually support all of the
15 recommendations that have been made regarding the
16 cultural and racial representation that needs to occur.
17 And not only am I the Executive Director of Project
18 Patient Care, which is a not-for-profit organization
19 statewide, focused on the patient, resident, caregiver
20 and family bringing their voice to the policy and
21 decision-making and in healthcare integration and
22 services, but I also work with Rotary.

23 And with Rotary, we are focused on seven areas
24 of focus, one of which -- and Rotary is 1.2 million

1 people in 200 countries. But we have about 12,000
2 Rotarians in Illinois. And the focus is also on peace.
3 That is one of the key components. And it seems to me
4 we are in some challenging times right now, and we need
5 to figure this out, and do it in a respectful way.

6 I know that redistricting is a major issue.
7 The 2020 census, again, won't be available for a while.
8 However, the American Community Survey data is publicly
9 available, and it is accessible and I sense that people
10 are already starting to work on it. In play are the
11 state's 118 state house and 59 state senate districts,
12 as well as the state's congressional districts, which
13 number 18, but we expect them to decrease by one or two.

14 In addition, there is the larger picture for
15 many people, and that's the local issues that occur in
16 terms of redistricting. We all know that nobody likes
17 to lose a boundary or have it moved and lose office.
18 However, we need to look at it from a consumer, a
19 resident perspective that it needs to be representative
20 of the community, and not of somebody's ambition.

21 We know that it is hard, and the data should
22 be driving the decisions. The decisions should be
23 transparent, the data should be transparent and publicly
24 available, and with public input. Since the last

1 redistricting, more information is readily available as
2 a result of technology and certainly social media. We
3 are hoping that the data and transparency can drive the
4 decisions while putting aside political ambitions.

5 We know that's a lot to ask of everyone on the
6 panel up there, but again, with information technology
7 and social media, there will be many eyes on this
8 process. More than in the past. We look forward to the
9 opportunity to be an active participant in the process
10 and not just an observer.

11 Thank you for all that you do. We know that
12 being an elected official is not a -- it is more than a
13 full-time job. It is 24/7 sometimes, and it is a
14 commitment to serve others, and we look forward for you
15 to serve the residents best in Illinois. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you very much,
17 Patricia. So that concludes our fourth panel. If there
18 are any questions or comments for Marjorie, Dorothy or
19 Robyn -- Leader Durkin?

20 MR. DURKIN: Just a comment, and I mentioned
21 this earlier. It is this issue of sampling, which was
22 raised by one of the previous speakers. I don't believe
23 that there is under any circumstance that we could
24 actually use this American Community Survey sampling,

1 which is as I said earlier, 3.5 million households in
2 the United States to determine or make the decisions for
3 331 million residents that reside in this country.

4 3.5 million is what we are going to --
5 democrat leaders are going to say that it is fair, it is
6 responsible, and that that type of sampling is going to
7 be appropriate throughout this country, and in Illinois
8 it reaches maybe about 200,000 households. But how can
9 we say that is right when we have 331 million people in
10 this country? That's just not the way in which we can
11 now think our Founding Fathers ever envisioned that we
12 would do anything less than count upon what the U.S.
13 Census Bureau is going to provide for us.

14 Remember, it is just not the power in
15 Springfield, but how the congressional seats -- how many
16 congressional seats we are allotted through the Census
17 Bureau is extremely important for our ability to
18 redirect federal funds back into the State of Illinois.

19 That is what is even more important. There is
20 some approximately \$800 billion dollars that will be
21 spent in various human service issues that will be
22 distributed to the states, that will be based on
23 whatever the census data information is made available
24 to the states. So I think we have to be very certain

1 that what we are going to rely upon, it is so important
2 that it be accurate to the extent that we can. And also
3 from this Census Bureau, when they provide that
4 information in August, we have until October to submit
5 and have a map certified.

6 So I think Chairman Butler might be able to
7 explain that there is a process in place, which we can
8 accomplish this very important goal, which one relies
9 upon an accurate reading from the U.S. Census Bureau,
10 but also one that we believe is the most fair and proper
11 way to be able to draw legislative and congressional
12 maps. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Just one second,
14 Leader Butler. I want to say for the record, and I
15 certainly want to hear, but to some extent what we hear
16 becomes duplicative. We have an additional seven or ten
17 people who want to testify, so by all means please
18 express what you need to express. But at some point I
19 am going to ask Allie to come back and do the same
20 redistricting presentation because I think it was all
21 covered at that, but go ahead Rhett Butler.

22 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And to
23 Ms. Logman, to address your point directly, your
24 question about, is it possible for a commission -- yeah,

1 it is actually. We are the legislature. We can figure
2 this out. We have a proposal out there currently in
3 bill form that we introduced a few weeks ago that would
4 call for a commission right now. We can go back into
5 session next week. We can pass this bill and have it on
6 the governor's desk next week. That would have a
7 commission that would figure this out and then
8 potentially hand it off to the constitutional
9 commission, if it goes past the June 30 deadline.

10 We have the ability to do it, except that
11 there seems to be people going back on their word about
12 supporting a commission in the General Assembly. So
13 yes, we have the ability to do it. And I just -- just
14 one last point, I get what you are saying Chairman
15 Tarver.

16 ACS data, it has been testified in these
17 committee hearings that ACS data under counts minority
18 populations. There are wild swings, I have said it
19 before. There are wild swings in ACS data when it comes
20 to minority populations. And it under counts, I think
21 the term was used, "fuzzy" was the term in these
22 hearings, data for communities under 65,000. And there
23 are many communities under 65,000.

24 The last thing I will say, since there were

1 discussions about the congressional districts, and I am
2 glad a couple of you brought up the congressional
3 districts because we have had practically no hearing and
4 no discussions about the congressional districts in
5 these hearings.

6 And I -- believe me, I can sympathize with
7 your frustrations. Where I live on the north end of
8 Springfield, and I have lived there for almost 20 years.
9 Eleven years ago, 10 years ago, 12 years ago, I was in
10 the 18th Congressional District; I wasn't in the
11 legislature at the time. Lo and behold, the 18th
12 Congressional District got moved about a mile north, and
13 I got put into the 13th Congressional District, which is
14 a district that strings together Champagne, Urbana,
15 inner city Bloomington-Normal, inner city Springfield,
16 all the way down to Collinsville to create a
17 gerrymandering district.

18 On the legislative side, I had long been in
19 what is now the 99th House District in Representative
20 Pogue's district, but they flipped the lines around
21 where the 99th District is now a few miles northwest of
22 me, and I got put in what is now the 87th District,
23 which Representative Brauer's district. These lines get
24 flipped around all the time.

1 My neighbors a few blocks south of me, in my
2 same aldermanic ward, has a state representative that
3 lives over 40 miles away in Decatur. So they can come
4 up the street and talk to me as state representative,
5 but they can't vote for me or they can't vote against
6 me, whichever they would like to do.

7 And I think this underscores the frustration
8 that some of you brought up today when changing these
9 boundaries. I get it. We need to respect communities.
10 All sorts of communities. Communities of interest has a
11 broad term, but we also live in communities that we know
12 and we are familiar with and we need to respect those
13 boundaries as well. Thank you for the indulgence,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Of course. Speaking of
16 indulgences, if you all will indulge me, I want to read
17 the names into the record of the individuals who
18 requested to testify. And that way if you are in the
19 room you know that you are on deck. And if you are
20 upstairs, you know that you are on deck.

21 I have Phil Pogue, Fred Dickson, Jason, it
22 looks like, Hudson. I know for the record, I have
23 Dorothy Johnson-Linner, but I believe you just
24 testified. I also have Dan Barreiro, who I believe

1 testified, first, actually.

2 I have Natalie Bonner, who I believe testified
3 a few minutes ago. Adriana Franco, who was on Panel 3
4 and did not testify. Jose Zambrano, who was also on
5 Panel 3 and did not testify. Alexander Kennedy, Andrew
6 Shaw, Liliana Olayo, and it looks like Texa, T-E-X-A.
7 Phil Pogue, if you are present. Are you Phil? Come
8 right up, sir.

9 MR. POGUE: My name is Phil Pogue, P-O-G-U-E,
10 is my last name. I live in Aurora. I used to live in
11 Springfield, so I am very aware of some of the things
12 that you were talking about.

13 MR. BUTLER: I am glad you stayed in Illinois,
14 though.

15 MR. POGUE: I do projects in civics education
16 for the Lincoln Presidential Library and the last time I
17 testified before a legislative hearing was the High
18 School Civics Education Mandate, and the task that you
19 are doing right now lays the foundation for civics
20 education and the projects of elections that students
21 around the state are participating in as part of their
22 service learning. So what you are doing is most
23 important and lays that foundation.

24 I do have several short-term questions. One

1 is, will the maps that are going to be presented be
2 provided to the public and to students so they know what
3 is being considered? And will there be a time frame
4 that leads to a response from the various groups that
5 have testified today? And also, will there be some sort
6 of compliance report that indicates that the maps that
7 are being presented meet the Federal and State Voting
8 Requirements Act and has taken the feedback from the
9 community?

10 As far as the long-term, probably remapping
11 has not been one of the areas that we have done very
12 well with in civics education, as well as in university
13 political science. So the questions we would be looking
14 at is, after a map is developed, do they lead to more
15 competitive races? Do we have races that are
16 uncontested? Is that improving?

17 Does the number of districts divided by the
18 remap represent the state vote by the parties? Does it
19 divide communities? And does it promote the interest in
20 state government? State government has probably been
21 reeling a little bit because we have lost a lot of local
22 media. Therefore, it is important that whatever remap
23 is developed, that it does promote civic interest. So
24 thank you for your time.

1 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, Phil. Is Fred
2 Dickson available?

3 MR. DICKSON: Thank you. I will probably help
4 you clear the house, here. Most people are gone. My
5 name is Fred Dickson, D-I-C-K-S-O-N. I live at
6 29 Riverwood Court, Oswego, Illinois. I have been a
7 lifelong resident of Kendall County, as 83 years, except
8 for time in military and school and those sort of things
9 away from home.

10 I am a lawyer. I practiced law for 55 years
11 in the City of Aurora. And I also manage some of your
12 cultural interests, some of which are in Kendall County.
13 So I have one foot in the courthouse and one foot on the
14 furrow.

15 I am here to speak on behalf -- well, let's
16 talk about the history of the county. Until the census
17 before this one, County of Kendall was a very reliable
18 bastion stronghold of the republican party. It was
19 obviously rural. Population of my tenure has been less
20 than 20,000. It is now I believe, the latest census is
21 going to show 131,000 or more.

22 And in any event, as somebody said earlier, we
23 are the fastest growing county in the State of Illinois.
24 The growth in the last ten years was 14 percent. We are

1 no longer a rural county; we are suburban. And in 2018,
2 we elected Lauren Underwood as our congresswoman. I am
3 an enthusiastic supporter of Lauren Underwood. She is
4 intelligent, thoughtful and most of all, a very hard
5 worker. Her home is just east of the Kendall County
6 boundary.

7 I am here to ask you that Kendall County be
8 included in the new district, whatever its number is. I
9 understand we are probably going to lose one district in
10 this state, and I don't know what the renumbering will
11 be, but I want to go with her. The elections that we
12 have held in the last two years have been fairly close.
13 And I heard a lot of talk today about ethnicity and race
14 and the need for that.

15 At one time not too long ago, I heard that the
16 population of -- within the population of the 14th
17 District, it was nearly 95 percent white, and
18 withstanding that, it hasn't stopped us from selecting
19 her. As I said, she is intelligent, she is hardworking,
20 and that's all that anybody we have ever talked to
21 wanted.

22 Kendall County was, as I say, a stronghold for
23 the republican party for years. We sent, routinely,
24 residents to Springfield and Washington. Most notably,

1 Mr. Hastert, the former Speaker of the House of Congress
2 in the U.S. Representatives House. Okay. We are now a
3 suburban county.

4 I think that anybody who is a representative
5 and works hard and does the job that Lauren Underwood
6 does, has to be considered on merits of alone, and I
7 think we are proof of that. I urge you that Kendall
8 County, for my own sake, be included in that district
9 with Lauren Underwood. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you Fred, and
11 especially for your service, I appreciate it.

12 Next I have Jason, and I believe it says,
13 Hudson. I just can't make out the handwriting, I
14 apologize. So if there is a Jason in the room, and you
15 believe you signed up to testify -- I am seeing no one.

16 Next, we will go to Alexander Kennedy.
17 Alexander? Awesome.

18 MR. KENNEDY: Hello, I am Alexander Kennedy.
19 A-L-E-X-A-N-D-E-R, K-E-N-N-E-D-Y. Like many before me,
20 I will express the view that this become a nonpartisan
21 process. Back in 2016, there was an effort to make a
22 referendum about fair districting that was subsequently
23 tossed in court after getting the requisite signatures
24 to make it onto the ballot.

1 So I support that measure and would like to
2 point out that polling at that time suggested that 66
3 percent of people in Illinois supported the failed
4 mapping referendum. So if we continue to keep this a
5 partisan process, that is against the wishes of
6 two-thirds of the people in Illinois. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, sir, and I
8 apologize. It looks like I overlooked Adriana Franco.
9 I don't see anyone approaching.

10 Okay. Next I have Andrew Shaw. Andrew, are
11 you here? Liliana Olayo?

12 MS. OLAYO: Good evening, my name is Liliana
13 Olayo, L-I-L-I-A-N-A, O-L-A-Y-O. I moved from Chicago
14 25 years ago and I make Aurora home. I have been living
15 in Aurora for the last 20 years. Since then I have been
16 calling Aurora home, and I have two children born in
17 Aurora. Very proud of that.

18 I have been supporting many of the comments
19 that have been made, so, you know, I really would like
20 to see more inclusion, equity and representation. As
21 Aurora being the second largest city in Illinois, you
22 know, I don't see that many representation for the
23 Latinx community.

24 I am just like home mom. I am staying home.

1 And there are more moms that wanted to come but there is
2 no interpretation available. So, you know, a lot of the
3 community doesn't feel represented well, especially
4 because of the cultural and the interpretation services
5 for meetings such important like this. So I am kind of
6 a little bit nervous, it is the first time I am doing
7 this, you know, it is very important. I am very -- kind
8 of excited, too.

9 CHAIRMAN TARVER: You are doing a great job,
10 just so you know.

11 MS. OLAYO: Thank you. So, you know, I am
12 listening to lawyers, listening to, you know, so many
13 important people. And I am just like, okay, I hear the
14 voice of why Latino mothers, and I am here just to let
15 you know that we would like to see more inclusion. We
16 want to see our kids succeeding, if you give us more
17 resources.

18 And as the second largest city, I don't see
19 the representation, especially with the Latino
20 community, so I am very kind of like, you know, trying
21 to make the point. And especially when you don't see
22 that many Latinos in these kinds of meetings, it is not
23 because we don't care.

24 But sometimes, you know, like I have a group

1 of moms that wanted to come, and they would feel
2 intimidated. If I tell them I am like a little bit
3 nervous, they would be like shaking. So it is like,
4 okay, I kind of like tell them it is okay. We are going
5 to be okay. And I am going to show you that I will be
6 going and talking and nothing is going to happen, and
7 they are going to listen to us.

8 So in that case, just to let you know that I
9 feel the population here in 20 years that I have been
10 living here, I feel like that we have overgrown the
11 resources, that we don't have that many resources,
12 especially for our kids. You know, they sometimes when
13 they are like English learners, you know, like they
14 don't have that many resources, especially for like
15 services, or like doctor appointments. We don't have
16 that representation for our people.

17 So I would like to just ask you, you know,
18 when you are considering giving resources, if you could
19 see us or know that the minority now is one of the
20 largest groups here in Aurora. So we actually need to
21 be seen. We need to be treated fairly, equally, and
22 just, you know, like thank you for the opportunity to
23 speak in front of you. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN TARVER: I will tell you, I am a

1 lawyer. I deal with lawyers all the time. You have
2 done better than probably 99 percent of us, so thank you
3 for your testimony.

4 I do want to say this before you go back to
5 your seat. I don't want to assume that everyone has the
6 ability to hop on Zoom or anything, but I do want to let
7 you know if there are individuals who may be concerned
8 about coming in person, but want to participate, want to
9 at least watch the proceedings that is available, I will
10 give the website again.

11 The other thing that I would say is even if
12 they want to just send an email or something along those
13 lines, and again, I don't want to assume that everybody
14 has an email or has access to the internet in the same
15 way, but if that is an option for these mothers, it is
16 an opportunity for them to have their voices heard.

17 And 24/7, essentially, so if they are up at
18 three o'clock in the morning, you know, because people
19 have children, I have a child, you know, that
20 opportunity is available as well, so I just wanted to
21 say that.

22 MS. OLAYO: Yes, I will let them know. And
23 actually, you know, as moms we always, you know, try to
24 get the best for our kids. So actually I started a

1 group with a group of moms about three years ago, a
2 group of neighbors to organize those things to make a
3 safe neighborhood for our kids.

4 And we choose, we have the support of the
5 principal of our elementary school for our children.
6 She opened the doors and that was like a big, you know,
7 territory that we were trying to include to make this
8 grow bigger. So we try to work together and there were
9 like two of our districts for two different other women.
10 So we were trying as women and moms, we wanted to reach
11 out to more parents and to protect our neighborhood for
12 our kids.

13 But that school was like between two
14 boundaries within two different aldermans. So we were
15 trying to make it like work together and support each
16 other, you know. It wasn't like that because one
17 community, I mean the other alderman wasn't speaking
18 Spanish, and most of us, we are Spanish speakers. So
19 our meetings ended up always being in Spanish.

20 So we started three years ago with that,
21 eager, you know, like get the support that we needed and
22 to watch out for each other, you know. African-American
23 and Latino working together. That was my dream, you
24 know, as moms, we want the best for our kids.

1 Culturally, we may be different, but at the
2 end we want the best for our kids. But that didn't
3 happen because of the language, you know, the barrier.
4 It seems like sometimes being the second largest city,
5 they don't have the resources to support our community,
6 I see this.

7 We had to split the group because the other
8 alderman, the other woman that was supporting us, you
9 know, she was feeling like that it was a lot of work
10 because she was doing the work also for the other group.
11 So it is like this is too much for only one because we
12 wanted to expand and have the support of two. And she
13 was feeling like you had to get back and come to only my
14 district, my ward.

15 So, you know, we actually had to let a lot of
16 people go just in order to get the services that we
17 needed, the support that we needed, or we would lose
18 whatever we already have with just one support of one
19 other ward. So, you know, at that point I want to
20 bring -- sometimes we need to work together and I don't
21 want to see the division. I want to see, you know, like
22 unity in the same neighborhood. Even though there are
23 boundaries sometimes, they fall, you know, in an area
24 that was like, oh, how do we do it here? It is like,

1 okay. Maybe you don't need to break it apart, but work
2 together. And that's the only thing I would like to
3 see.

4 But again, you know, the language was a big
5 part here and having to separate that group of
6 neighborhood that we have. And that was a nice group,
7 but, you know, we had to like separate it because of the
8 area. Thank you for your attention.

9 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you very much. I
10 think when the transcript is read, you will see, and we
11 will all see the second part of your testimony is a lot
12 of things that are very important that I think we all
13 need to hear. So thank you.

14 That's not to suggest that the first part
15 didn't. I just think the second part was like verbatim
16 what we talked about in our opening, and it is great to
17 hear from you. And thank you for your advocacy and
18 thank you to everybody, obviously, as well. We have one
19 remaining person, I apologize. The name, it looks like
20 it is T-E-X or T-E-X-A. Okay. And I apologize, your
21 handwriting was probably better than all four of my
22 eyes.

23 MR. TEXA: That was my fault. It was a made
24 up name. I think I am the last one, so I don't want to

1 take too much time. But I do take responsibility.
2 Anyway, thank you for the opportunity for me to speak
3 here. I was late. I apologize because I just saw the
4 notice.

5 My name is Texa. I am a resident of Lisle and
6 candidate of the COD election that just happened a few
7 days ago. I am trained in engineering and business. I
8 have practiced in telecom, energy and financial sectors,
9 as well as NGO. So I appreciate the theme that there is
10 official here, and also the audience has proposed to
11 emphasize a nonpartisan approach to redistricting.

12 I appreciate the fact that we have political
13 gerrymandering, okay. I am trying to understand. I am
14 still learning, but a thought occurs to me. Why do we
15 not let a third party to do the job? What I am
16 proposing is a algorithm based, computer based
17 natural -- basically to produce a map that looks like a
18 Schaumburg, not like Hoffman Estates, okay. If you know
19 what I mean.

20 And also kind of random, we can randomize this
21 output. So this is a question at the high level. If
22 this kind of third party random natural way of
23 districting has some viability, I don't mind producing
24 multiple approaches. Off the top of my head I have two.

1 I am sure there are more than two methods. I can even
2 write a prototype. It is only software, right?

3 So here is just a question, high level, does
4 this idea has -- you know, holds any water? If the
5 answer is yes, then I go home and do some more work. If
6 no, then now I shut up and listen more. Thank you very
7 much.

8 MR. BUTLER: And if anybody from Hoffman
9 Estates wants to rebut Texa's comments there, feel free.

10 MR. TEXA: Nothing against Hoffman Estates. I
11 used to live in Itasca and it just has to be parcels.
12 And I am from China. I am sorry. I have some comedy
13 bad habit. But when I say, Swedish parcels, I am kind
14 of -- my head spins. You know, sorry about Hoffman
15 Estates.

16 Okay. Thanks again.

17 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Sure, thank you. I am glad
18 you had an opportunity to testify. And if you want to
19 submit that question, I am going to read the email
20 address again. It is redistrictingcommittee@HD -- I am
21 sorry.

22 MR. TEXA: No, that's okay. I have a link on
23 the Illinois's legislature site that has this schedule,
24 like today is the in-person session, that's why I came

1 here on bicycle, but I am sure that email you just
2 referenced is on that web page, right?

3 CHAIRMAN TARVER: It is, and I just wanted to
4 say, I know you asked me a question that I couldn't
5 possibly answer, but I want to make sure that the
6 question is answered, which is why I am saying you might
7 want to send it to that email address, which is, and it
8 is on the website, but just to read it into the record,
9 I will say it again.

10 MR. TEXA: So redistricting at --

11 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Yes, sir. It is
12 redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov.

13 MR. TEXA: Thank you, sir. I am going to
14 repeat, it is redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov.
15 Thank you, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you. Any questions or
17 comments?

18 MR. BUTLER: Close, if you want.

19 CHAIRMAN TARVER: I will let you close, then I
20 will close.

21 MR. BUTLER: After you.

22 CHAIRMAN TARVER: No, you go first. Go for
23 it.

24 MR. BUTLER: First of all, just let me say to

1 my friend, Chairman Tarver, it might look like sometimes
2 a lot of us disagree. I know some of the elected
3 officials might think this as well, but we do actually
4 get along on some things and we are friends. We might
5 disagree philosophically on a lot of things, but we do
6 find some common ground to work together and that's the
7 basis of our democracy, very honestly.

8 And Liliana, please never be afraid to
9 approach your elected officials. We are here to serve
10 you. Most of the time we are afraid to hear from you
11 because you are probably going to tell us something we
12 don't want to hear, very honestly. But please never be
13 afraid to approach your elected officials.

14 It has been an honor to be here today, and I
15 have appreciated all the testimony. And it is obvious
16 there is a lot of passion for a variety of things in
17 this area of the state. And I truly appreciate that
18 everybody took the time to come here on a Friday evening
19 to talk about the importance of redistricting because as
20 I opened, this is one of the important things that we
21 do. It determines who represents you in a variety of
22 levels of government, and it is an important process.

23 And so I would encourage you to get to know
24 your local elected officials. You have one sitting

1 right over there. She is still here, Representative
2 Hernandez. She does a good job for Aurora and the area
3 and Springfield. I would just encourage you get
4 involved with this.

5 And I do hope, Mr. Pogue, that the public does
6 have an opportunity to have input once the maps are out.
7 I think that is a very important part of the process,
8 that we have input from the public after -- significant
9 input from the public once the maps come out. So,
10 Chairman Tarver, thank you. I appreciate the
11 opportunity and it is all yours.

12 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, sir. And the
13 microphones are really working now. Let me again start
14 by again thanking Mayor Richard Irvin for having us and
15 then from there I will go to Representative Hernandez.
16 I believe we are in your district, and so thank you for
17 having us.

18 Thank you Representative Hirschauer for
19 sticking around, and thank you to Representative Kifowit
20 as well. And then obviously, I want to thank
21 Representative Butler for driving the furthest today,
22 even though it probably took me longer to get from
23 Chicago.

24 Also, Leader Durkin and Leader Brady as well,

1 I wanted to thank them for being present. And thank you
2 to Sharon, our court reporter, for making sure that the
3 public has an accurate record of what transpired today.
4 Thank you, again, to everyone who made the trip here on
5 a Friday afternoon. The folks who are upstairs as well.
6 We really appreciate all of your input.

7 I want to again reiterate that you can send us
8 an email at redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov. All of
9 this written testimony, public comments and the maps
10 that you can draw yourself will be available on ilga.gov
11 as well as ilhousedems.com/redistricting.

12 And then I wanted to say, not only for you
13 Liliana, but for everyone. But in case you want to
14 encourage those moms, I believe there is a public
15 hearing on Monday as well that you have an opportunity,
16 and anybody from anywhere in the state can testify, so
17 just want to make that known as well. In case there are
18 individuals who couldn't make it tonight, but still want
19 to be able to provide their testimony, it is either via
20 email and the public schedule is on
21 ilhousedems.com/redistricting, so please check that out.

22 And other than that, we will recess to the
23 call of the Chair. Thank you everyone.

24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
2 COUNTY OF C O O K)

3

4 Sharon A. Jerndt, being first duly sworn, on
5 oath says that she is a Certified Shorthand Reporter and
6 Registered Professional Reporter doing business in the
7 City of Chicago, County of Cook and the State of
8 Illinois;

8

9 That she reported in shorthand the proceedings
10 had at the foregoing Illinois House of Representatives
11 Redistricting Committee hearing;

11

12 And that the foregoing is a true and correct
13 transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid
14 and contains all the proceedings had at the said
15 Illinois House of Representatives Redistricting
16 Committee hearing.

16

17

18

SHARON A. JERNDT, CSR, RPR

19

20 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO
21 before me this 27th day
22 of April 2021.

21

22

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